

FRANCO-GERMAN RELATIONS 1871-
1914

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was the concern of all the Powers and that Germany must not be ignored. Rouvier's Cabinet had fallen while the Conference was in session ; but Bourgeois, who followed him at the Quai d'Orsay, declared to the Chamber that the special rights and interests of France had been preserved. The Chancellor expressed no less gratification. Germany, he explained, had not desired to go to war on account of Morocco, where she had no direct political interests and no political aspirations ; but to prevent her treaty rights being disposed of without her consent was a question of prestige. His countrymen, however—and not the Pan-Germans alone—failed to share his apparent satisfaction. He had had a good hand, but he played it badly. He had recalled France from her absorption in domestic controversy to the unchanging realities of the Franco-German quarrel, and had revived French patriotic sentiment. The most enduring result of the crisis was to tighten the bonds between England and France, to break down the barriers which separated England and Russia, and thereby to prepare the ground for the Triple Entente. Though Delcassé had gone and Bulow became a Prince, the balance of power was tilted against Berlin.

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It became the fashion after the first Morocco crisis to speak of *la noiwette France*, and there can be no doubt that the nation emerged from the ordeal with a heightened self-confidence. "Tangier," wrote the Abbé Ernest Dimnet in *France Herself Again*, "was a flash of lightning, after which the clouds lifted. What has been called the regeneration or even the resurrection of France dated from that shock. Garrison towns like Toul, Luneville, Verdun, and the lonely forts in their vicinity, the

very names of which used to sound disagreeably
in the ears of
the recruits, became in great demand. The yearly
manoeuvres,
which reservists had formerly been gkd to
shirk, were ac-
cepted as treats." The moral support of Great
Britain throughout the crisis strengthened the position of
France as a Great
Power. " Henceforth," testifies Poincare, ^{<e} we
remained at
least as closely united with her as with Russia.
For several
years the two Governments consulted one
another day by day
and hour by hour." There was not a Premier or
a Foreign
Minister in the years immediately following the
fall of Delcassé
who thirsted for adventure, yet there were
elements in France